(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages the National goal of having minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. As against this, as per India State of Forest Report, 2009, the forest and tree cover of the country is 23.8% of the geographical area. The forest and tree cover is gradually improving.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise, in view of the position stated in reply to part (a) and (b) above.

Environmental clearance to Srinagar power project

1885. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Srinagar project submitted by Alaknanda Hydropower Ltd. was granted environmental clearance on 3 May, 1985 for a 200 MW project having a 63 metres high dam and a maximum pond level of 603 metres;

(b) whether it is also a fact that environment clearance lapsed after five years but was illegally revalidated on 27 July, 1999 and again in 2006;

(c) whether the project now being set up with 330 MW capacity and 90 metre high dam is violating the environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against the concerned officials and the promoters of the company for illegal increase in capacity and dam height?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Srinagar Hydro Electric Project was accorded environmental clearance on 3rd May, 1985 to U.P. State Electricity Board for generation of 200 MW. The environmental clearance was later transferred to M/s Duncan North Hydro Power Co. Ltd. and subsequently to M/s Alaknanda Hydropower Ltd.

(b) As major construction work was not started, the Ministry informed the project proponent that the environmental clearance should be treated as lapsed and fresh appraisal of project is required. Based on the information and clarifications received from the State Government and project proponent, the environmental clearance was revalidated for enhanced capacity of 330 MW.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Quality of Ganga water

†1886. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.